

46.1 Use adjectives (synonyms) instead of the underlined words to complete the collocations.

- 1 I only put a very small amount of chilli in the soup but it was still too hot for some people.
- 2 There was an extremely large amount of information to read, 5,000 pages, which was far too much for one person to absorb.
- 3 We can't ignore the fact that a small but important number of people disagree with the plan.
- 4 There was an unexpected number of people at the meeting who had never voted in their lives.
- 5 The government's new budget will mean that a rather large number of people will have to pay more in taxes. (Give two answers.)

46.2 Choose the correct collocation.

- 1 17, 29 and 395 are all *strange / odd / unequal* numbers.
- 2 Many European countries use the euro as their standard unit of *money / value / currency*.
- 3 26, 8 and 192 are all *equal / level / even* numbers.
- 4 The bill *comes / arrives / gets* to a total of 287 dollars.
- 5 The unemployment rate is *falling / decreasing / lowering*.

46.3

Use words from the box to complete the news reports. You may use the words more than once.

decline rare keep widespread drop fall rise

Following (1) criticism of the government's environmental policy and a recent report showing a (2) in the numbers of seabirds along the nation's coastline, a scheme has been announced which, it is

hoped, will result in a (3) in the population of birds, especially of those (4) species which are seriously threatened with extinction.

Unfortunately, last year's storms did (5) damage to homes in the north, and the damage is still visible in many places. One local resident complained, 'We (6) asking the authorities when we will be compensated. They

(7) promising to sort it out but then nothing happens.' There has been a steady (8) in the number of severe storms in the area, with an average of two per year recorded in the 1980s and more than five per year now.

Although only a relatively small number of people die from (9) diseases each year, a plan to build a research centre into such diseases has received (10) support from all political parties. 'I'm glad to say that we

have seen a steady (11) in the incidence of these diseases,' a medical expert said. 'But we must be careful. The numbers could (12) again if we do not continue to support research.'